Birmingham COMEDY Festival

5-14 Oct 2018

JOANNA LUMLEY
RICH HALL
JAMES ACASTER
JIMEOIN
TOM BINNS
SCUMMY MUMMIES
BREAKING TALENT AWARD
LAUREL & HARDY
FREE HALF-DAYERS
GILDED MERKIN
ROBIN INCE
BOBBY MAIR
GUZ KHAN
ALL YOU NEED IS LSD

Birmingham COMEDY Festival 5-14 Oct 2018

bhamcomfest.co.uk

Supported by Birmingham What's On, Free Radio, The Arcadian

Thu 4-Sat 6 Oct:
Bismillah! An ISIS Tragicomedy
Iraq. Islamic State's Danny and guard Dean discuss dead-end jobs and the price of an airport meal, all the while circling a terrifying truth - that both just want to go home. A story of disenfranchisement, social alienation, prejudice, radicalisation and the rock band Queen.
Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 1892. £12. 8pm.
www.oldjointstock.co.uk

Thu 4-Sat 13 Oct: Birmingham Repertory Theatre & Told By An Idiot present:
All You Need Is LSD
In 2015 acclaimed playwright Leo Butler accepted an invitation from former Government drugs tsar, Prof David Nutt, to take part in the world's first LSD medical trials since the 1960's. This is the result.
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Centenary Sq, Broad St, Bham B1 2EP. T: 0121 236 4455. From £10. Times vary.
birmingham-rep.co.uk

Edinburgh Gin Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award 2018

Fri 5 Oct: Birmingham Comedy Festival and The Glee Club present:
Edinburgh Gin Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award 2018
The very best emerging acts from across the region compete for the prestigious annual title. Your chance to catch the comedy stars of tomorrow as they kick-start their glittering careers. Compered by James Cook.
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £11/ £8. 8:15pm.
glee.co.uk | bhamcomfest.co.uk

Fri 5 Oct: **Hit The Ode Comedy Special**
A special edition of the poetry night featuring world-class spoken word artists alongside open mic'ers.
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst St, Bham B5 4TB. T: 0844 338 5000. £5/ £8. 7.45pm.
birminghamhippodrome.com

Fri 5-Sun 14 Oct:
Steve Lilly's Comedy Classics
Award-winning West Mids artist Steve returns with another collection of finely delineated portraits from the golden age of TV and film comedy, inc. Dad's Army, Tony Hancock, Laurel & Hardy, Ken Dodd, Carry On, and The Two Ronnies - many of whom have previously graced the Hippodrome's stage.
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst St, Bham B5 4TB. T: 0844 338 5000. Free. Daily 10am-6.30pm. www.stevelilart.co.uk

Fri 5 Oct: **Summit Stand Up**
Britain's Got Talent's Micky P Kerr headlines a fundraising night, joined by TV's Junior Simpson, Freddie Farrell and MC Paul Pirie.
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Rd, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AB. T: 0121 296 9543. £12.50. 8pm.
www.townhallsuttoncoldfield.co.uk

Fri 5 Oct:
The Thinking Drinkers: Pub Crawl

Enjoy five free drinks as the award-winning experts take you from the symposiums of Ancient Greece to the classic British boozer, via Wild West saloons, Victorian gin palaces and the secret Speakeasy.
The Old Rep, Station St, Bham B5 4DY. T: 0121 359 9444. £16. 8pm.
www.oldreptheatre.co.uk

Fri 5 Oct:
Best of Brum Comedy Showcase 1
After selling out the last two years, the showcase returns with resident Cherrybomb Comedy host Tom Ham welcoming some of the best acts from across the Mids to the cosy upstairs room of Cherry Reds.
Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 643 5716. £5. 8pm.
facebook.com/cherrybcomedy

Sat 6 Oct: **Blingfest: A Decade Of Chaos**
It's Barry's birthday, and Mr Velvet has some new moves, so The Orchestra Of Chaos are celebrating with their own mini-festival, complete with two stages and a Bling Buffet. Pulp Fiction meets Phoenix Nights.
The Spotted Dog, 104 Warwick St, Digbeth, Bham B12 0NH. PWYW/£5+. 8pm.
www.theorchestraofchaos.com

Sat 6 Oct:
Upfront Comedy
John Simmit unveils a stellar line-up featuring the very best UK and international acts.
Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £13/ £11. 8pm.
macbirmingham.co.uk

Sat 6 & Sat 13 Oct: **Kamikaze Club's Panel Show: A Quest For Points**
Panel show shenanigans. Expect hilarity, questions, challenges, games, a swear jar and a whole lot more in contenstants Quest ... For ... Points!
1000 Trades, 16 Frederick St, Bham B1 3HE. T: 0121 233 2693. Free. 9pm.
facebook.com/TheKamikazeClub

Sun 7 Oct: **Birmingham Comedy Festival Half-Dayer: Pt 1**
8x FREE shows in 2x city centre venues. From 1.15pm. See over for full details ▶

Fri 5-Sat 6 Oct:

Danny O'Brien, Andrew Ryan, Gareth Richards & Guz Khan

Featuring 'Dublin's funniest comedian' O'Brien; Irishman Ryan; comedy songster Richards; and West Mids' rising star Guz.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12-£24.95. 7.45pm. glee.co.uk

Sat 6 Oct:

Jonathan Hopkiss & Chris Purchase

Hopkiss ponders 1000 months, roughly how long we live on this earth; while Reg D Hunter tour support Purchase mixes light-hearted anecdotes with cultural satire.

1000 Trades, 16 Frederick St, Bham B1 3HE. T: 0121 233 2693. Free. From 5pm. facebook.com/TheKamikazeClub

Sat 6 Oct:

Private Parts Live

TV stars and hit podcasters Jamie Laing and Francis Boulle promise to share the intimate and sordid details of their private lives, including gossip from both on and off the screen.

The Old Rep, Station St, Bham B5 4DY. T: 0121 359 9444. £22.50; VIP £51. 7.30pm. www.oldreptheatre.co.uk

The Laughing Sole Comedy For Kids

A very special show featuring not only Britain's Got Talent star Noel James, but also a post gig Comedy Question Time. What is laughter? What makes something funny? What's the secret of a good joke?

Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £7.50. 2pm. macbirmingham.co.uk

Sun 7 Oct:

Birmingham Comedy Festival presents:

Laurel and Hardy: In And Out of Service

Three classic black and white comedies - Block-Heads, Two Tars and Any Old Port - featuring the greatest double-act of all time, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £9/ £8.10. 2.30pm. macbirmingham.co.uk bhamcomfest.co.uk

Sun 7 Oct:

The Awkward Silence: Bufo Bufo

Chicago 1927, and something smells wrong. Journalist Brad is determined to follow the whiff of conspiracy, but when he pulls up the city's floorboards, it turns out to be more rotten than he could have imagined.

Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 1892. £10. 4pm. www.theawkwardsilence.co.uk

Jim Beam Highball presents:

Birmingham Comedy Festival FREE Half-Dayers

JIM BEAM Highball

Two days, two city centre venues and 16 shows. All shows are FREE/ by donation/ Pay What You Want, no booking required, just pop along and see as many shows as you like ...

PART 1: Sun 7 Oct

▼ CHERRY REDS ▼

Aaron Twitchen: Can't Catch A Rainbow
Never let anyone stop you. They can't stop a rainbow if they can't catch the end of it. A comedy show about friendship, love and wine from Luisa Omielan's tour support. **1.15pm**

Lindsey Santoro: Looks Like A Boiled Egg
Join Northfield's Princess as she recounts tales of misadventures in life for your amusement. **2.30pm**

Ham & Clives: Bang You Out
Prepare to get banged out by the pairing of Pleasance Comedy Reserve star Danny Clives and Cherrybomb Comedy resident host Tom Ham. **3.45pm**

Freddie Farrell: Jerk-In-Progress
Having released Excuse Me While I Burst into Flames via US label Comedy Dynamics in 2017, Freddie's back with his second show. **5pm**

Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

▼ THE VICTORIA ▼

Alex Hylton: Everybody's Different And I'm The Same
Join one of Huffington Post's Must See New Acts of the Edinburgh Fringe as he tries to find out what makes him so special ... **1.15pm**

Good Kids
Cult sketch-comedy cowboys descend for an hour of wicked-ass mayhem. Put your phone in your pocket and your giggle boots on 'cause this one's the big one! **2.30pm**

Jay Handley: White Jesus
Jay shares wrong-headed opinions on matters he should leave well alone. When not at the Fringe, he can be found arrogantly inflicting his world view on audiences across the UK. **3.45pm**

Round The Horne: Resuscitated
A fond revival of one of the most popular radio comedy shows of the '60s. With fave characters inc Ramblin' Syd Rumpo, Charles & Fiona, and Julian & Sandy. **5pm**

The Victoria pub, 48 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

PART 2: Sun 14 Oct

▼ CHERRY REDS ▼

James Cook: Sarcasmic
Brum comic James returns with a new show. It's called 'Sarcasmic', so we suppose it must be like a sarcastic orgasm or something. **1.15pm**

Hannah Silvester: Unique Child of the Universe
Join the award-winning comedian as she bangs on about all kinds of stuff in front of a lunch-time crowd. It'll be lovely! **2.30pm**

Gareth Berliner: I Paid For 50mins Of Your Time
Gareth is a funny bloke who's prepared to invest financially in you as an audience. But you better be a good one or he may want his money back! **3.45pm**

Mickey Sharma
Mickey is a professional with five Edinburgh Fringe shows under his belt. He brings his best hour to Brum! **5pm**

Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

▼ THE VICTORIA ▼

Fat Penguin Improv: The Armando Diaz Experience
Classic Chicago style long-form improvised comedy delivered by the high-paced Fat Penguin crew. Featuring some of Birmingham's best performers. **1.15pm**

Josh and Phil's Knowledge Club
Podcasters Josh Pugh and Phil Pagett present a lecture on the importance of education. You'll find out why learning can be fun, fulfilling, and so on. **2.30pm**

Rob Kemp's Wheel of Shows
Feeling the pressure of unexpected success after last year's award-winning The Elvis Dead, Rob returns with the non-committal, imposter syndrome-motivated Wheel of Shows, featuring 10 show ideas! **3.45pm**

Board Game Smackdown
The funniest festival comedians play board/ card/ party/ tabletop games live on stage. Hosted by award-winning comedian and UK board gaming champion James Cook. **5pm**

The Victoria pub, 48 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

Sun 7 Oct: **Mistress To The Midnight**
Join award-winning sketch double-act Dirty White Boys as they bring you a live stage parody of classic British horror films. Also starring the excellent Jacob Lovick.
The Victoria, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 633 9439. £5. 8pm. www.thevictoriabirmingham.co.uk

Sun 7 Oct: **Gary Powndland & Friends**
Wolverhampton's own internet sensation embarks on his first full length show in Brum. Gary has booked a babysitter for the foxes and welcomes you to a night of the comedy, animation, football and erotic fiction.
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12/ £10. 8.30pm. glee.co.uk

Mon 8 Oct: **Ted Lowe Presents A Long Walk To Quinton: An Audience with Barry Peng.**
Local journo Lowe and political lightweight Peng discuss the hot topics of the day: carveries, illegal fly tipping and taking back control of suburban Birmingham following an influx of hipsters.
The Victoria, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 633 9439. Free/PWYW. 8pm. facebook.com/quindependenceparty/

Tue 9 Oct: **East Meets Westlife**
Catch the engaging quick-fire Mo Haroon and multi-instrumentalist and storyteller Alex Black, two of Birmingham's most promising up-and-coming comics, in their debut show.
Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 643 5716. Free/PWYW. 8pm. cherryreds.com

Tue 9 Oct:
Joanna Lumley: It's All About Me!

The legendary well-travelled Ad Fab, New Avengers and 007 actress recounts her often hilarious adventures. Galloping through almost 50 years in this business we call show!
Symphony Hall, Centenary Sq, Bham B1 2EA. T: 0121 780 3333. £32.50-£62.50. 7.30pm. thsh.co.uk

Tue 9 Oct:
The Laughing Sole

Featuring talented Welsh punster Noel James and comedy magician Mandy Muden, both fresh from their success on Britain's Got Talent.
The British Oak Pub, 1364 Pershore Rd, Bham B30 2XS. T: 0121 458 1758. £12. 7.30pm. www.thelaughingsole.org.uk

Wed 10 Oct:
Birmingham Comedy Showcase
The Kamikaze Club round up their favourite performers inc. Matthew Williams, Lou Levell, David Luck, Sham Zaman, Chris James, Alex Black and more.
1000 Trades, 16 Frederick St, Bham B1 3HE. T: 0121 233 2693. Free/PWYW. 8pm. facebook/TheKamikazeClub

Wed 10 Oct:
Cherry Shreds New Material Night
Josh Pugh, Lindsey Santoro, Danny Clives, Hannah Silvester and Tom Ham pit their new material against The Shredder. You laugh, it survives; you don't, it gets shredded.
Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 643 5716. £1. 8pm. facebook.com/cherrybcomedy

Wed 10 Oct: **The All New Scummy Mummies Show**
Following last year's sell-out, Ellie and Helen are back celebrating the scummier side of parenting, from drinking wine at teatime to hiding from the PTA. With new songs, jokes, sketches and catsuits.
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Rd, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AB. T: 0121 296 9543. £16. 8pm. www.townhallsuttoncoldfield.co.uk

Thu 11 Oct: **Comedy Carousel**
Voted best comedy night in the Midlands two years running! A fast paced and spontaneous topical show, featuring top comedians, a unique take on the week's news and a big screen to bring you the best bits from the weird world of the web.
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £6-£20. 8pm. glee.co.uk

Thu 11 Oct:
MY Comedy: Mercedes Benson
Resident MC Maureen Younger introduces Mercedes Benson. Plus appearances from Lindsey Santoro, Chloe Petts, and Bev Vegas.
Kitchen Garden Café, 17 York Rd, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7SA. T: 0121 443 4725. £10/ £12. 8pm. www.maureenyounger.com

Thu 11 Oct: **Rich Hall's Hoedown**
There's never been a better time to be an American comedian in the UK. Hall's precision dismantling of the tenuous relationship between two countries is as freewheeling and deadly accurate as ever!
Town Hall, Victoria Sq, Bham B3 3DQ. T: 0121 780 3333. £17. 8pm. thsh.co.uk

Thu 11-Sat 13 Oct: **Parlour Games**
A right royal romp through British history, exploring politics, passion and parlour games; a cross-dressing comedy for all

those with a taste for Victoria's Sponge and who enjoy playing with their Prince Albert. Sharp Teeth & Wardrobe Theatre.
Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 1892. £12. 8pm. www.oldjointstock.co.uk

Fri 12 Oct: **Jimeoin: Result!**
An evening of world class stand-up as the Irishman from Australia brings his brilliantly observed, ever-evolving and hilarious comedy to the festival, fresh from a smash-hit New York off-Broadway season.
Town Hall, Victoria Sq, Bham B3 3DQ. T: 0121 780 3333. £21.50. 7.30pm. thsh.co.uk

Fri 12 Oct: Live At The Town Hall:
James Acaster

After his four stand-up specials went live on Netflix to worldwide acclaim, headliner Acaster's stock has never been higher. Supported by Archie Kelly (Phoenix Nights), musical comic Rob Deering and MC Wayne Beese.
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Rd, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AB. T: 0121 296 9543. Sold Out/ Returns Only. www.townhallsuttoncoldfield.co.uk

Fri 12 Oct:
Robin Ince: Chaos Of Delight
Ince mashes up the two cultures of art and science in this celebration of the human mind - from Bohemians to Black Holes, Dali to DNA. Another of Ince's brilliant stand-up-sort-of-lectures.
Comedy Junction, Station Pub, Station St, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AT. £14. 8.30pm. www.comedyjunction.co.uk

Fri 12 Oct:
Best of Brum Comedy Showcase 2
A second helping of Mids-flavoured comedy, introduced by Cherrybomb Comedy host Tom Ham.
Cherry Reds, 88-92 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 643 5716. £5. 8pm. facebook.com/cherrybcomedy

Fri 12 Oct: **Tom Binns: Everyman**
The creator and star of BBC One's Hospital People is back. Tom's Hospital Radio DJ (Ivan Brackenbury), Psychic Medium (Ian D Montfort) and famed ventriloquist act have won him countless five-star reviews.
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £10. 8.30pm. glee.co.uk

Fri 12-Sat 13 Oct:
Maff Brown, Bobby Mair, Carey Marx & Dana Alexander
More top flight comedy with comedian, writer, actor and Joke Fight Club podcaster Brown; circuit veteran Marx; co-star of Viceland's Bobby and Harriet Get Married, Mair, and fellow Canadian Alexander.
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12-£24.95. 7.45pm. glee.co.uk

Sat 13 Oct: **Josh Pugh & Good Kids**
Former Breaking Talent 2015 and English Comedian of The Year 2016 winner Josh Pugh explores what defines us in The Changing Man. Plus sketch-show antics from Good Kids.
1000 Trades, 16 Frederick St, Bham B1 3HE. T: 0121 233 2693. Free/PWYW. From 5pm. facebook.com/thekamikazeclub

Sat 13 Oct: **Barbara Nice's Raffle**
Join Kings Heath's hilarious housewife superstar in a special evening of chance and luck. With a complimentary raffle ticket and a chance to win something off Barbara's table - what's not to like?
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst St, Southside, Bham B5 4TB. T: 0844 338 5000. £15. 7.45pm. birminghamhippodrome.com

Sat 13 Oct: **Vikki Stone**
Award-winning comedian and musician Vikki is popping a piano in the back of the car, and coming to Brum. Think Victoria Wood meets Tim Minchin!
Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £12. 8pm. macbirmingham.co.uk

Sun 14 Oct:
The Gilded Merkin
A variety show starring the very best international burlesque and cabaret acts, hand-picked by the Mistress of the Merkin, Scarlett Daggers. From glamourous striptease and circus, to comedy, music and fire eating, it's a rollercoaster of glittering entertainment!
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £15. 7pm. glee.co.uk www.gildedmerkin.co.uk

Sun 14 Oct: **Birmingham Comedy Festival Half-Dayer: Pt 2**
8x FREE shows in 2x city centre venues.
◀ From 1.15pm. See panel for details.

Birmingham COMEDY Festival

5-14 Oct 2018

bhamcomfest.co.uk

Highlighting top notch comedy in Britain's Second City since 2001.

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For the latest festival news, details of extra shows and full listings for the entire festival, see: **www.bhamcomfest.co.uk**

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram: **BhamComFest**

All listings correct at time of publication. Subject to change. See festival website(s) for more information. Tickets available from individual venues (booking fees may apply). For Pay What You Want (PWYW) shows, please donate to the acts as you leave, they've worked hard. Warning: Some shows may contain jokes and puns.

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COMEDY AT THSH

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SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

ONE MAN STRANGER THINGS - A PARODY

SAT 27 OCTOBER
8:30PM
TOWN HALL

SARA PASCOE - LADSLADSLADS

WED 28 NOVEMBER
7:30PM
TOWN HALL

DAVID O'DOHERTY - YOU HAVE TO LAUGH

THU 6 DECEMBER
8PM
TOWN HALL

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Comedy at The Old Rep

Marcus Brigstocke
Sun 30 Sep

Harry & Chris
Tue 2 Oct

Robin Ince
Thu 4 Oct

Knock Knock Comedy
Sun 28 Oct

Dad's Army Radio Hour
Sat 3 Nov

Stephen K Amos
Sun 4 Nov

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COMEDY

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16 NOV
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COMEDY TOUR SHOWS

MON 10TH SEP
PLUMBING THE DEATH STAR GET POSH

WED 12TH SEP
RACHEL PARRIS

SUN 16TH SEP
STEPHEN LYNCH

SUN 23RD SEP
DESI CENTRAL

WED 26TH SEP
JAMALI MADDIX

SUN 7TH OCT
GARY POWNDLAND & FRIENDS

FRI 12TH OCT
TOM BINNS

WED 17TH OCT
ABANDOMAN

FRI 19TH OCT
FELICITY WARD

FRI 26TH OCT
ROB KEMP: THE ELVIS DEAD

SUN 28TH OCT
COBO: BACK TO THE OLD SCHOOL

30TH & 31ST OCT
ELIS JAMES & JOHN ROBINS

FRI 2ND NOV
DARREN HARRIOTT

SUN 4TH NOV
GARY DELANEY

WED 7TH NOV
FIN TAYLOR

FRI 9TH NOV
PAUL FOOT

SUN 11TH NOV
THE INDIANS ARE COMING

SUN 18TH NOV
ZOE LYONS

TUE 20TH NOV
JEN BRISTER

WED 21ST NOV
FLO & JOAN

FRI 23RD NOV
ADAM ROWE

SUN 25TH NOV
COMEDYMANIA MEGA TOUR

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